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(54) Title: HER2 EXTRACELLULAR DOMAIN

(57) Abstract

An extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule, essentially free of transmembrane and cytoplasmic portions, which is antigenic in animals. Isolated DNA encoding the extracellular portion; an expression vector containing the isolated DNA; and a cell containing the expression vector. A process for producing the extracellular domain. A vaccine containing the extracellular domain.

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HER2 EXTRACELLULAR DOMAIN

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention is generally directed to the extracellular domain of p185HER2, a receptor-like protein which is encoded by the human homolog of the rat neu oncogene.

More specifically, the present invention is directed to a form of the extracellular domain which is essentially free of transmembrane and cytoplasmic domains, to the DNA encoding this form, and to a process for producing this form of the extracellular domain in a host cell.

Description of Background and Relevant Materials

Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2, also 15 known as NGL and human c-erbB-2, or ERBB2), is the human homolog of the rat proto-oncogene neu. HER2 encodes a 1,255 amino acid tyrosine kinase receptor-like glycoprotein with homology to the human epidermal growth factor Although no ligand binding to this probable receptor. growth factor receptor has yet been isolated, the HER2 gene product, p185HER2, has the structural and functional properties of subclass I growth factor receptors (Yarden et al., Ann. Rev. Biochem., 57:443-478 (1988); Yarden et al., Biochem., 27:3113-3119 (1988)).

The receptor tyrosine kinases all have the same general structural motif; an extracellular domain that binds ligand, and an intracellular tyrosine kinase domain that is necessary for signal transduction, or in aberrant

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cases, for transformation. These 2 domains are connected by a single stretch of approximately 20 mostly hydrophobic amino acids, called the transmembrane spanning sequence. This sequence is thought to play a role in transferring the signal generated by ligand binding from the outside of the cell to the inside. It has also been suggested to play a role in the proper positioning of the receptor in the plasma membrane.

Consistent with this general structure, the p185HER2 glycoprotein, which is located on the cell surface, may be divided into three principle portions: an extracellular domain, or ECD (also known as XCD); a transmembrane spanning sequence; and a cytoplasmic, intracellular tyrosine kinase domain. While it is presumed that the extracellular domain is a ligand receptor, as stated above the corresponding ligand has not yet been identified.

The HER2 gene is of particular interest because its amplification has been correlated with certain types of cancer. Amplification of the HER2 gene has been found in human salivary gland and gastric tumor-derived cell lines, gastric and colon adenocarcinomas, and mammary gland adenocarcinomas. Semba et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 82:6497-6501 (1985); Yokota et al., Oncogene, 2:283-287 (1988); Zhou et al., Cancer Res., 47:6123-6125 (1987); King et al., Science, 229:974-976 (1985); Kraus et al., EMBO J., 6:605-610 (1987); van de Vijver et al., Mol. Cell. Biol., 7:2019-2023 (1987); Yamamoto et al., Nature, 319:230-234 (1986).Gen transfer experiments have shown that

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overexpression of HER2 will transform NIH 3T3 cells and also cause an increase in resistance to the toxic macrophage cytokine tumor necrosis factor. Hudziak et al., "Amplified Expression of the HER2/ERBB2 Oncogene Induces Resistance to Tumor Necrosis Factor Alpha in NIH 3T3 cells", Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 85, 5102-5106 (1988).

Because amplification of the HER2 gene results in greatly increased numbers of the p185HER2 protein residing on surfaces of affected cells, there may be interrelationship between increased amounts of p185HER2 extracellular domain on the surfaces of affected cells and the resistance of these cells to treatment. It would therefore be highly desirable to be able to manipulate the p185HER2 extracellular domain in order to investigate several possibilities for the treatment of conditions associated with amplification of the HER2 gene. These therapeutic modes relate not only to the extracellular domain, but also to the putative ligand, which it should be possible to isolate and characterize using the purified p185HER2 extracellular domain.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is accordingly directed to an extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule containing at least 9 amino acids, and/or containing an immune epitope, which is essentially free of transmembrane and intracellular portions of the HER2 molecule. The extracellular portion may be substantially pure, or at least about 99% pure, and may extend to the entire

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extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule. Moreover, the extracellular portion may be antigenic in animals, and may be conjugated with a peptide having immunogenic properties; this peptide may contain an immune epitope.

In another embodiment, the present invention is directed to isolated DNA encoding the extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule. This isolated DNA terminates upstream of the DNA portion encoding the transmembrane domain of the HER2 molecule. The termination may occur at least 1 base pair upstream of the portion encoding the transmembrane domain of the HER2 molecule, and preferably occurs about 24 base pairs upstream of this portion.

The isolated DNA of the present invention encodes a sequence of at least 9 amino acids of the extracellular portion, and none of the transmembrane or intracellular portions of the HER2 molecule.

In a further embodiment, the present invention contemplates an expression vector, such as a plasmid or virus, containing the isolated DNA as described above, as well as a cell containing the expression vector. This cell may be eukaryotic or prokaryotic.

The present invention also extends to a process for producing an extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule, which includes the steps of ligating the isolated DNA as described above into an expression vector capable of expressing the isolated DNA in a suitable host; transforming the host with the expression vector;

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culturing the host under conditions suitable for expression of the isolated DNA and production of the extracellular portion; and isolating the extracellular portion from the host. The host cell may be a prokaryote, such as a bacterium, or a eukaryote.

In a yet further embodiment, the present invention extends to a vaccine comprising the extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule, which may be combined with suitable adjuvants.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF FIGURES

HER2 expression vector and full-length and mutant HER2 proteins. The HER2 expression vector contained eukaryotic transcriptional units for the mouse dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR) cDNA and the bacterial neomycin phosphotransferase (neo) gene, both under SV40 early promoter control. Transcription of the full-length HER2 cDNA was also driven by the early SV40 promoter. full-length HER2 protein contains an extracellular domain with two cysteine-rich clusters (hatched rectangle), separated by the transmembrane-spanning region (filled rectangle) from the intracellular tyrosine kinase domain The mutant protein p185HER2ATM has a (open rectangle). deletion 28 amino acids. of including The truncated p185HER2XCD transmembrane-spanning region. protein contains all N-terminal sequences up to 8 amino acids before the transmembrane-spanning region.

Fig. 2. Amplification of HER2 and HER2∆TM genes. Cell lines transfected with plasmids expressing wild type

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or the ATM mutant HER2 cDNAs were amplified to resistance to 400 nM methotrexate. Cultures were metabolically [35S]-methionine with and proteins precipitated with the G-H2CT17 antibody. Lane CVN-transfected NIH 3T3 vector control line. Lanes 2 and 3: Parental and amplified HER2-3 line. Lanes 4, 5, and 6, 7: Parent and amplified lines derived from two independent clones, A1 and B2, of the ATM mutant. The arrows indicate the positions expected for proteins of apparent molecular mass of 175 and 185 kDa.

Fig. 3. Autophosphorylation of p185^{HER2} and p185^{HER2ΔIM} proteins. Triton X-100 lysates of control, HER2-3₄₀₀, and ΔTM-expressing cell lines were prepared and immunoprecipitated with the G-H2CT17 antibody. The immune complexes were incubated in 50 ul of HNTG, 5 mM MnCl2 with 3 uCi [γ-³²P] for 20 min, electrophoresed on a 7.5% polyacrylamide gel, and labeled bands visualized by autoradiography. Lane 1: CVN vector control. Lane 2: HER2-3₄₀₀ cells expressing full-length HER2. Lanes 3 and 4: Two independent lines expressing p185^{HER2ΔIM}. The arrows indicate the positions expected for proteins of apparent molecular mass of 66.2, 97, 175, and 185 KDa.

Fig 4. Secretion assay of ΔTM mutants. Cell lines CVN, HER2-3₄₀₀, ΔTM-A1₄₀₀, and ΔTM-B2₄₀₀ were labeled with [³⁵S]-methionine overnight. Triton X-100 cell extracts were prepared and the labeling medium collected. Cells and cell-conditioned media were immunoprecipitated with G-H2CT17 antibody and analyzed on 7.5% SDS-PAGE gels.

Lanes 1-4 are immunoprecipitations of cell xtracts from the various lines, and lanes 5-8 are immunoprecipitations from the corresponding cell-conditioned media. Lanes 1 and 5: CVN vector control. Lanes 2 and 6: HER2-3400 cell lines expressing full-length p185HER2. Lanes 3, 4 and 7, 8: ATM-A1400 and ATM-B2400 cell lines expressing mutant p185HER2aTM. The arrows indicate the positions expected for proteins of apparent molecular mass of 175 and 185 KDa.

- Fig 5. Secretion of p185 HERZXCD from 3T3 and CHO cells. 10 NIH 3T3 and CHO cell lines expressing full-length and truncated p185 HER2 and vector controls were labeled with [35S]-methionine overnight. Cell extracts and cell-conditioned media were immunoprecipitated with anti-HER2 monoclonal antibody 3E8 and analyzed on 7.5% 15 SDS-PAGE gels. Lanes 1 and 2: NIH 3T3 control cell line, extract and conditioned medium. Lanes 3 and 4: NIH 3T3 line A1 expressing p185 HERZXCD, cells and medium. Lanes 5 and 6: NIH 3T3 line 3400 expressing full-length p185HER2, cells and conditioned medium. Lanes 7 and 8: CHO control line, 20 cell extract and conditioned medium. Lanes 9 and 10: CHO line 2, expressing p185HERZXCD, cells and conditioned medium. Lanes 11 and 12: CHO line HER2500, expressing full-length p185 HER2, cells and conditioned medium. The arrows indicate the molecular mass of the indicated protein bands.
- 25 Fig 6. Increase in expression of p185HER2XCD with amplification. The CHO-derived cell line HER2XCD-2 was selected for growth in 500 nM and then 3000 nM methotrexate. The parent line, the two amplified

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derivatives, and control vector-transfected cells were labeled with [35S]-methionine. Cell extracts cell-conditioned media were immunoprecipitated with the anti-HER2 monoclonal antibody 3E8 and analyzed on a 7.5% Lanes 1 and 2: CVN cell extract and SDS-PAGE gel. conditioned medium. Lanes 3 and 4: HER2XCD-2, unamplified cells and conditioned medium. Lanes 5 and 6: HER2XCD-2 amplified to resistance to 500 nM methotrexate, cells and conditioned medium. Lanes 7 and 8: HER2XCD-2 amplified to resistance to 3000 nM methotrexate, cells and conditioned medium. For comparative purposes, one-fifth as much sample of the 3000 nm line was loaded compared to the control, 0 nM, and 500 nM lines. The band intensities were quantitated with an LKB2202 laser densitometer. The arrows show the positions of proteins of apparent molecular mass of 88 and 103 KDa.

Fig 7. Biosynthesis of p185HER2XCD. The CHO line HER2XCD23000 was labeled with [35S]-methionine and cell extracts, and cell-conditioned media prepared. Lanes 1 and 2: Cell extract and cell-conditioned medium. Lanes 3 and 4: The same conditioned medium incubated or mock-incubated with endo H. Lanes 5 and 6: Cell extract and conditioned medium from cells treated with tunicamycin. The arrows show the positions expected for proteins of apparent molecular mass of 73, 88, and 103 KDa.

Fig 8. Morphology of NIH 3T3 cells transfected with HER2 and HER2ΔTM expression constructs. A and D: Parental and amplified cells from NIH 3T3 cells transfected with

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vector alone. B and E: NIH 3T3 cells expressing p185HERZATM (lin A1), parent and amplified derivative selected for resistance to 400 nM methotrexate. C and F: NIH 3T3 cells expressing wild type p185 HER2 (line 3), parent and amplified derivative selected for resistance to 400 nM methotrexate.

Cell surface and cytoplasmic immunofluorescence staining of control, HER2, and HER2ATM lines. The top photos are intact cells labeled with anti-HER2 monoclonal antibody. The bottom photos are the same cell lines treated with 0.15% Triton X-100 detergent before addition of antibody. A and D: Control NIH 3T3 cells transfected with vector only. B and E: Cell line HER2 ΔTM-A1400, expressing p185HER2ΔTM. C and F: Cell line HER2-3400 expressing p185HER2.

Fig 10. Fluorescence-activated cell sorter histograms of control, HER2 and HER2 TM cells binding anti-p185HER2 monoclonal antibody 4D5. Binding by the control antibody, 368, directed against human tissue plasminogen activator, light, broken line. Binding by the anti-HER2 antibody 4D5, 20 dark unbroken line. Panel A: Control NIH 3T3 cells transfected with vector only. Panel B: Cell line HER2-3400, expressing p185HER2. Panel C: Cell line HER2 ∆TMA1400 expressing p185 TM.

Fig 11. Biosynthesis of p185HER2 and p185HER2ATM proteins. Cell lines HER2-3400 and HER2∆TM-A1400 were labeled with 25 $[^{35}S]$ -methionine and p185 HER2 and p185 $^{HER2\Delta TM}$ proteins collected by immunopr cipitation and analyzed on a 7.5% SDS-PAGE gel. Lane 1: Vector control. Lane 2: Untreated p185HERZATM. Lanes

3 and 4: Aliquots of the same cell extract treated or mock-treated with endo H. Lane 5: Nonglycosylated p185HER2 from cells treated with tunicamycin. Lane 6: Untreated Lanes 7 and 8: Aliquots of the same cell extract treated or mock-treated with endo H. Lane 9: p185HERZATM Nonglycosylated from cells treated tunicamycin. The arrows show the positions of proteins of apparent molecular weight of 175 and 185 kDa.

Fig. 12. Purification of the HER2 extracellular Purified HER2 extracellular domain samples were 10 domain. analyzed using PhastSystem SDS-Gel electrophoresis and silver stained protocols as recommended by Pharmacia. SDS polyacrylamide gel gradient) electrophoretic (10-15% analysis was performed according to Pharmacia protocol File Silver staining was performed according 15 Pharmacia protocol File No. 210. Lane 1 contains molecular weight markers (BRL). Lane 2: Chinese Hamster Ovary Cell 15 X concentrate (1 microliter). Lanes 3 and 4: immunoaffinity purified HER2 extracellular domain (1.6 micrograms and 0.16 microgram, respectively). Lanes 5 and 20 6: immunoaffinity purified HER2 extracellular domain after DEAE chromatography (0.25 micrograms and 0.083 micrograms, respectively). Lanes 7 and 8: HER2 extracellular domain after formulation in PBS (0.32 micrograms and 0.082 25 micrograms, respectively).

Fig. 13. The predicted amino acid sequence of the HER2 extracellular domain, with the corresponding nucleic acid sequence. The boxed sequences show potential T-cell

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epitopes, using the algorithm developed by Margolit et al.,

J. Immunol. 138:2213-2229(4) (1987).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

It was initially hypothesized that removal of the transmembrane spanning sequence would yield a protein which would be secreted from the cell. As previously indicated, the transmembrane spanning sequence is principally composed of hydrophobic amino acids, which effectively anchor the protein in the cell membrane. Removal of this sequence would therefore be expected to permit passage of the protein through the membrane.

A first construct was accordingly prepared which deleted exactly in-frame the 22 amino acid transmembrane spanning sequence of HER2, and 3 amino acids on either side (Figure 1). The construct was prepared as follows:

The central EcoR1 fragment containing the transmembrane spanning segment was cloned into the EcoR1 site of the bacteriophage vector M13 mp18 (Yanisch-Perron et al., Gene, 33:103-119 (1985). The noncoding strand was used as template for oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis. The construct deleted the transmembrane spanning sequence, and an additional 3 amino acids before and after.

Residues 651-678 were deleted by priming double stranded DNA synthesis with a 30 base pair oligonucleotide of sequence 5' CAG AGA GCC AGC CCT CAG CAG AAG ATC CGG 3'. The double stranded DNA was transformed into SR101 cells and mutants identified by hybridization to the same oligonucleotide 5' end labeled by polynucleotide kinase and

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 $[\gamma^{-32}P]$ ATP (Amersham, 5000 Ci/mmol). An EcoR1 fragment containing the deletion was recombined into a plasmid expressing the HER2 cDNA, replacing the wild type sequence.

When expressed in NIH 3T3 cells, this mutant, designated HER2^{ATM}, produced a polypeptide, designated p185^{HER2ATM}, of apparent molecular weight 175 kD (Figure 2, lanes 5 and 7). Production took place at levels comparable to wild type p185^{HER2} amplified to the same level of resistance to methotrexate (Figure 2, lane 3). The mutant proteins also retained an active tyrosine kinase activity.

In the presence of $[\gamma^{-32}P]$ -ATP, the mutant proteins (Figure 3, lanes 3 and 4) were autophosphorylated to the same extent as unaltered p185^{HER} (Figure 3, lane 2). Figure 3 also shows autophosphorylated p185^{HER2_IM}-related proteins of lower molecular weight than the complete protein. These smaller proteins may represent degradation products and, since they are not observed with p185^{HER2}, could imply a difference in intracellular processing of the mutant form.

To determine whether the form lacking the transmembrane sequence was secreted, cells were metabolically labeled with ³⁵S-methionine. The culture conditions used herein were as follows: cells were cultured in a 1:1 mixture of Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium and Ham's nutrient mixture F-12 supplemented with glutamine (2 mM), penicillin (100 units/ml), streptomycin (100 ug/ml), and 10% serum. NIH 3T3-derived cell lines were cultured with calf serum (Hyclone). Chinese Hamster Ovary cells deficient in dihydrofolate reductase (CHO-DHFR) were

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cultured in fetal bovine serum (Gibco) supplemented with glycine (0.13 mM), hypoxanthine (0.11 mM), and thymidine (0.02 mM). (For selection of the transfected plasmid DHFR gene or to amplify introduced plasmids by methotrexat selection, the glycine, hypoxanthine, and thymidine were omitted and extensively dialyzed serum substituted for fetal bovine serum.)

Both cells and cell-conditioned medium were assayed for p185HER2. Figure 4 demonstrates that all p185HER2 remained cell associated (lanes 2, 3, 4), and neither the wild type protein nor the mutant form was secreted (lanes 6, 7, 8).

Thus, contrary to expectations, deletion of the transmembrane spanning sequence was not sufficient to yield a secreted form of p185HER2.

The discovery that p185HER^{24TM} is not secreted suggested that perhaps there are sequences distal to the transmembrane spanning region that prevent passage of p185HER² through the plasma membrane. A second mutant was accordingly made that contained a UAA stop codon 8 amino acids before the beginning of the proposed transmembrane spanning sequence (Figure 1).

The second construct truncated p185HER2 8 amino acids before the start of the transmembrane spanning region at residue 645 by addition of a polypeptide chain-terminating TAA codon. The oligonucleotide 5' AAG GGC TGC CCC GCC GAG TAA TGA TCA CAG AGA GCC AGC CCT 3' was used to prime synthesis of double-stranded DNA from the same template used to construct the ATM mutant. Mutant plaques were

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identified by hybridization to the 5' end-labeled oligonucleotide, and confirmed by checking for the presence of a Bcl 1 site also introduced directly after the ochre codon. The chain-terminated mutant, designated HER2^{XCD}, was then recombined into the HER2 cDNA expression plasmid. The structure of the plasmid and the 2 mutant HER2 derivatives is shown in Figure 1.

Secretion of the resulting form of p185HER2, designated $p185^{\text{HER2XCD}}$, was assayed by first metabolically labeling the cells with 35S-methionine, followed by immunoprecipitation of p185HER2-related proteins from both the cells and cell-conditioned media. In the immunoprecipitation procedure (Hudziak et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 84:7159-7163 (1987)), cells were harvested trypsinization, counted electronically with a Coulter counter, and plated at least 6 hrs. before labeling. plating medium was removed, cells washed with PBS, and the cells re-fed with methionine-free Dulbecco's modified [35S]-methionine (Amersham, 800 Ci/mmol, minimal medium. 29.6 TBq/mmol) was added at 100 uCi/6 cm plate in a volum of 3 ml. Cells were lysed at 4°C with 0.4 ml of HNEG lysis buffer per 6 cm plate. After 10 min, 0.8 ml of lysis dilution buffer (HNEG buffer with 1% bovine serum albumin, 0.1% Triton X-100 detergent) was added to each plate and the extracts were clarified by microcentrifugation for 5 min. Medium to be assayed for secretion of p185HER2 related proteins was collected and clarified by microcentrifugation.

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Antibodies were added to cell extracts or conditioned medium and allowed to bind at 4°C for 2-4 h. The polyclonal antibody, G-H2CT17(0), recognizing the carboxy-terminal 17 amino acids of p185HER2, was used for characterization of cell lines expressing the transmembrane-deleted form of p185HER2. The monoclonal antibody 3E8, recognizing an epitope on the extracellular domain (Hudziak et al., Mol. Cell. Bio., 9:1165-1172 (1989)), was used at 8 ug/reaction to immunoprecipitate the truncated form. Seven ug of rabbit anti-mouse IgG was added to immunoprecipitations using this monoclonal to improve its binding to protein A-sepharose. Immune complexes were collected by absorption to protein A-sepharose beads and washed (Hudziak et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 85:5102-5106 (1988); Hudziak et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 84:7159-7163 (1987)). Proteins separated were on 7.5% sodium sulphate-polyacrylamide gels (SDS-PAGE) and analyzed by autoradiography.

This revealed a form of p185HER2XCD of M_r 88,000 kD that
is associated with the cells (Figure 5, lanes 3 and 9);
however, the cell-conditioned media from both the NIH 3T3
cells and Chinese hamster ovary-derived lines also contains
larger amounts of a protein of M_r 103,000, which is
immunoprecipitated by anti-HER2 monoclonal antibody (Figure
5, lanes 4 and 10). Full length p185HER2 was also expressed
in both NIH 3T3 and CHO cells (Figure 5), lanes 5 and 11.
There is no secretion of native p185HER2 from either of these
cell types (Figure 5, lanes 6 and 12).

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The larger size of the observed proteins in the cells and cell-conditioned medium (88,000 and 103,000, respectively) compared to the size predicted by the amino acid sequence (71,644) suggested that the truncated form was being glycosylated.

This was confirmed by treating the cells with the antibiotic tunicamycin, which prevents N-linked glycosylation. Treatment with tunicamycin resulted in the appearance of a cell-associated protein of M_r 73,000, which is close to that predicted by the amino acid sequence (Figure 7, lane 5). It also almost completely inhibited secretion of p185^{HERZXCD} into the medium (Figure 7, lane 6). Cell-conditioned medium from tunicamycin treated cells contains only small amounts of the mature 103,000 form, and none of the smaller forms (lane 6). This further suggests that secretion of p185^{HERZXCD} is coupled to glycosylation.

The extent of glycosylation of the secreted form was investigated with the enzyme endoglycanase H (endo H, Boehringer Manheim). This enzyme will hydrolyze asparagine-linked oligosaccharides of the high mannose High mannose oligosaccharides are biosynthetic type. intermediates in the glycosylation process. maturation of the carbohydrate side chains trimming off some mannose and addition of other sugars such as fucose. Such mature oligosaccharide side chains are resistant to endo H.

To determine if secreted p185HERZXCD is resistant to this enzyme, cell conditioned medium labeled with 35S-methionine

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was immunoprecipitated. The immuno-precipitates were collected onto protein A sepharose beads and incubated with endo H. Neither mock incubated (lane 3) nor endo H-treated p185HERZXCD (lane 4) showed any decrease in mobility associated with hydrolysis of the glycosyl side chains, demonstrating that the glycosylation is complete.

Without being bound by any particular theory, these results taken together suggest that the cell-associated form of p185 HER2XCD is an intermediate, and that fully mature glycosylated p185HER2 extracellular domain is being synthesized and secreted. The lack of secretion of the p185 MER2ATM protein could be hypothesized to result from the presence of processing information in the transmembrane spanning sequence which is necessary for Golgi transport and targeting of the plasma membrane; however, from these studies it appears instead that transport of tyrosine kinase receptor (or receptor-like) extracellular domain to the cell surface is coupled to proper glycosylation.

Therefore, insertion of the UAA stop codon 8 amino acids before the beginning of the proposed transmembrane spanning sequence yields a fully mature glycosylated p185HER2 extracellular domain which is freely secreted by the cell.

Having succeeded in producing a secreted form of p185HER2, the next stage involved investigating whether the amount of secreted protein could be increased by gene amplification. Using the CHO-derived cell line, it was found that the amount of extracellular domain could be increased by methotrexate sel ction. The amount of

secreted product increased 29-fold in cells selected for resistance to 500 nm methotrexate, and a further 4.4-fold by selection for resistance to 3000 nm methotrexate (Fig. 6).

Thus, a total increase of 128-fold in secreted p185HERZXCD was obtained when this cell line was amplified to resistance to 3000 nm methotrexate, making the production of relatively large quantities of p185HERZXCD possible.

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results in cell transformation, DNA was introduced in mammalian cells by the CaHPO4 coprecipitation method (Graham et al., Virology, 52:456-467 (1973)). Five ug of plasmid DNA was added to half-confluent plates of cells (6.0 cm) in 1 ml for 4-6 h. The DNA was removed and the cells shocked with 20% (vol/vol) glycerol. After 2 days for phenotypic expression the selective agent geneticin was added at 400 ug/ml. Clones were picked using glass cloning cylinders with petroleum jelly for the bottom seal. The introduced plasmids were amplified by the methotrexate selection procedure (Kaufman et al., J. Mol. Biol., 159:601-621 (1982)).

When the ATM mutant was expressed in NIH 3T3 cells, primary unamplified colonies after selection had the normal flat nontransformed phenotype (Figure 8, compare photo B with vector control alone, photo A). After the expression level was increased by methotrexate selection, the clls took on the refractile, spindle-shaped appearance of transformed cells and also grew piled up in irregular

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clumps (photo E). This observation is similar to our earlier findings with the unaltered HER2 cDNA (photos C and F, parent and amplified derivatives respectively), and suggests that high levels of expression of the mutant Δ TM protein were also transforming.

The morphological changes seen at equivalent levels of amplification (400 nm methotrexate) are not as marked for the mutant, implying that the transforming potential of this form of p185^{HER2} may be less. At higher levels of resistance to methotrexate, the ATM cells become even more transformed in appearance.

The plasmid was also negative in a focus-forming assay whereas the wild type HER2 plasmid was positive, further indicating that the transforming potential of p185HER24TM protein is lower. Cells expressing high levels also displayed another property of the transformed phenotype, growth in soft agar. Colony formation in soft agar was determined by harvesting each line to be assayed with trypsin, counting the cells (Coulter counter), and plating 80,000 cells per 6-cm dish. The top layer consisted of 4 ml of 0.25% agar (Difco, "purified") over a bottom layer of 5 ml of 0.5% agar. Colonies were counted after 3-4 weeks. Cells from 2 independent clones plated in soft agar gave rise to soft agar colonies with an efficiency comparable to cells expressing the wild type HER2 gene:

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<u>Table I</u> <u>Soft Agar Colony Formation</u>

	<u>Cell Line</u>	# of Soft Agar Colonies
	CVN	0
5	CVN ₄₀₀	0
	HER2-3 ₀	5 +/- 1
	HER2-3 ₄₀₀	208 +/- 27
	ΔTM-A1 ₀	0
	ΔTM-A1 ₄₀₀	205 +/- 62
10	ΔTM-B2 ₀	0
	ΔTM-B2 ₄₀₀	205 +/- 13

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Two control lines were used; NIH 3T3 cells transfected with a plasmid expressing only the neo and DHFR genes, and the same line amplified to resistance to 400 nM methotrexate. The number of soft agar colonies arising was determined for both parental and amplified lines of clones expressing either p185HER2 or p185HER2ATM proteins. Each cell line was plated in triplicate and the value averaged.

Therefore, according to the present invention it has been determined that removal of only the transmembrane spanning sequence does not lead to secretion of p185HER2, unless the entire tyrosine kinase domain is also deleted. Removal of this domain results in proper glycosylation and secretion of the extracellular domain.

In order to obtain purified HER2 extracellular domain working material, Chinese Hamster Ovary Cell Harvest Fluid (CFF) containing recombinant HER2 ECD may be first concentrated by ultrafiltration, and then purified by immunoaffinity chromatography using a HER2 specific MAb

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coupled to CNBr activated Sepharose; other suitable immobilization supports may be used. Concentrated CCF is applied to the affinity column after filtration through a 0.2 micron Millipor filter. Purification cycles are performed as necessary until the desired amount of CCF is processed.

During each cycle of purification, the concentrated CCF is applied and the affinity column is washed to baseline with 0.5 M Tris buffer containing 0.15 M NaCl at a pH of approximately 7.5 (TB). HER2 extracellular domain is then eluted from the column with 0.1 M sodium citrate buffer containing 0.5 M NaCl at a pH of approximately 3.5. The affinity column eluant fractions containing HER2 ECD are pooled and neutralized. The immunoaffinity column is reequilibrated between each purification cycle with TB.

In a second step, the affinity column eluant is buffer exchanged into 25 ml of Tris buffer, at a pH of approximately 7.0 (TB2). The HER2 extracellular domain is then applied to a DEAE Sepharose Fast Flow column, and washed with TB2. The HER2 ECD is removed from the column by step or gradient salt elution in TB2 (containing up to 200 mM NaCl).

After DEAE chromatography, purified HER2 ECD fractions are pooled, exchanged into phosphate-buffered saline, and stored at 2-8° C. The resulting material is substantially pure, i.e., about 99% pure (see Fig. 12).

By means of the present invention it is accordingly possible to produce a secreted, glycosylated p185HER2

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extracellular domain. This opens several possibilities for further research, as well as a broad range of potential therapeutic applications.

As previously stated, the HER2 gene is of particular interest because its amplification has been correlated with certain types of cancer. In a survey of 189 primary mammary gland adenocarcinomas, it was found that 30% contained amplifications of the HER2 gene. Slamon et al., "Human Breast Cancer: Correlation of Relapse and Survival with Amplification of the HER-2/neu Oncogene," Science 235, 177-182 (1987). Amplification was correlated with a negative prognosis and high probability of relapse.

This suggests that of the 120,000 women diagnosed with breast cancer each year, 36,000 will have HER2 amplification. Approximately half of these women, or about 15,000, may be expected to exhibit greater than 5-fold amplification, corresponding to nearly half of the 40,000 breast cancer-related deaths each year.

It has been demonstrated that a monoclonal antibody directed against p185HER2 the extracellular domain specifically inhibits growth of breast tumor-derived cell lines overexpressing the HER2 gene product; prevents HER2transformed NIH 3T3 cells from forming colonies in soft agar; and reduces the resistance to the cytotoxic effect of necrosis factor alpha which accompanies HER2 overexpression. Hudziak et al., "p185HER2 Monoclonal Antibody has Antiproliferative Effects In Vitro and Sensitiz s Human Breast Tumor Cells to Tumor Necrosis

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Factor", Mol. Cell. Biol. 9:1165-1172 (1989). See also, Drebin et al., "Inhibition of Tumor Growth by a Monoclonal Antibody Reactive with an Oncogene-Encoded Tumor Antigen", Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 83, 9129-9133 (1986) (in vivo treatment with anti-p185 monoclonal antibody asserted to inhibit tumorigenic growth of neu-transformed NIH 3T3 cells implanted in mice).

This effect presents the possibility that conditions characterized by amplification of the HER2 gene may be subject to treatment via Active Specific Immunotherapy. This therapeutic modality contemplates provoking an immune response in a patient by vaccination with an immunogenic form of the extracellular domain. The extracellular domain (or a derivative thereof, as discussed below) may be combined with a local adjuvant which is safe and effective in humans, such as alum, Bacillus calmette-Guerin (BCG), adjuvants derived from BCG cell walls, Detox (Ribiimmunochem). Syntex-1, or Corynebacterium parvum. Alternatively, systemic adjuvants, such as Interferon gamma, Interleukin 1, Interleukin 2, or Interleukin 6 may be suitable. An appropriate dose and schedule would be selected to maximize humoral and cell-mediated response.

It may also be possible to enhance an immune response by targeting the immunogen to the immune system, which could lead to more efficient capture of the antigen by antigen presenting cells, or by directing the immunogen so that it is presented by MHC Class 1 molecules, since these usually induce a T-cell response.

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In addition to Active Specific Immunotherapy, it should be possible to use the purified extracellular domain to isolate and characterize the putative ligand. The HER2 ligand may be used in turn to deliver toxin to tumor cells which are overexpressing HER2, such as by molecular fusion of the ligand with toxin, or by chemical cross-linking. Alternatively, patients overexpressing HER2 may be vaccinated with HER2 ligand conjugated to, or in combination with, a suitable adjuvant.

A patient overexpressing HER2 will also presumably be overexpressing the HER2 ligand. The ligand-HER2 binding interaction, which is likely to contribute to tumor growth, may be inhibited by blocking free ligand in the patient's serum. This blocking can be accomplished by treating the patient with the HER2 extracellular domain, which will proceed to bind free HER2 ligand, thereby preventing the ligand from binding to the HER2 receptor site.

Rather than using the HER2 extracellular domain per se, it may be more desirable to use a derivative which has an increased affinity for the ligand, and/or which has an increased half-life in vivo. Cross-linking on cells is known to improve binding affinity, suggesting that artificial cross-linking can be used to improve the binding ability of the HER2 extracellular domain. The half-life of the extracellular domain in serum can be improved by, for example, fusing the extracellular domain with other molecules present in the serum which are known to have a

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long half-life, such as the Fc-portion of an immunoglobin molecule.

The present invention has of necessity been discussed herein by reference to certain specific methods and materials. It is to be understood that the discussion of these specific methods and materials in no way constitutes any limitation on the scope of the present invention, which extends to any and all alternative materials and methods suitable for accomplishing the ends of the present invention.

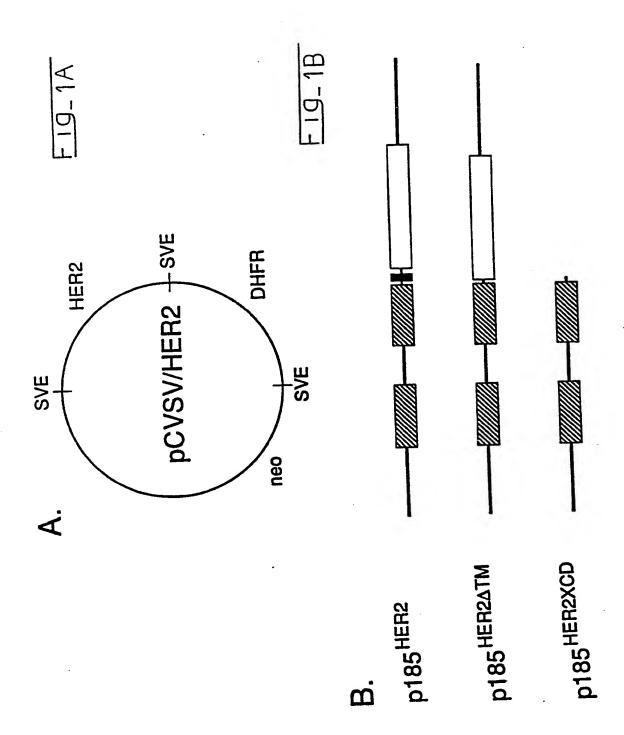
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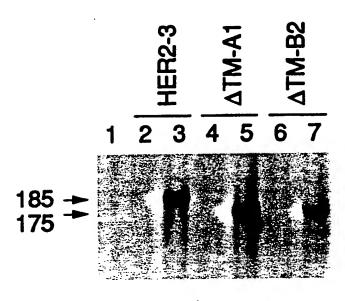
WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

- 1. An extracellular portion of the HER2 molecul comprising at least 9 amino acids, essentially free of transmembrane and intracellular portions of said HER2 molecule.
- 2. An extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule comprising an immune epitope, essentially free of transmembrane and intracellular portions of said HER2 molecule.
- 3. The extracellular portion as defined by claim 1, in substantially pure form.
 - 4. The extracellular portion as defined by claim 1, having a purity of at least about 99%.
- The extracellular portion as defined by claim 1,
 wherein said extracellular portion is antigenic in animals.
 - 6. The extracellular portion as defined by claim 1, further comprising the entire extracellular portion of said HER2 molecule.
- 7. The extracellular portion as defined by claim 1, 20 conjugated with a peptide having immunogenic properties.
 - 8. The extracellular portion as defined by claim 7, wherein said peptide comprises an immune epitope.
 - 9. Isolated DNA encoding the extracellular portion as defined by claim 1, terminating upstream of the portion encoding the transmembrane domain of said HER2 molecule.
 - 10. The isolated DNA as defined by claim 9, terminating at least 1 base pair upstream of the portion encoding the transmembrane domain of said HER2 molecule.

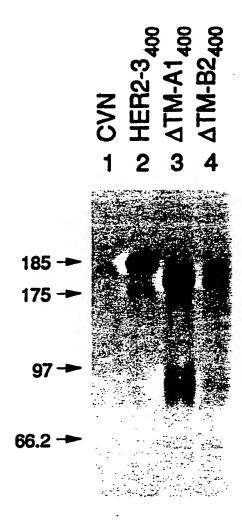
- 11. The isolated DNA as defined by claim 10, terminating about 24 base pairs upstream of the portion encoding the transmembrane domain of said HER2 molecule.
- 12. The isolated DNA as defined by claim 9, wherein said DNA encodes a sequence of at least 9 amino acids of said extracellular portion, and none of the transmembrane or intracellular portions of said HER2 molecule.
 - 13. An expression vector comprising the isolated DNA as defined by claim 9.
- 10 14. The expression vector as defined by claim 13, wherein said expression vector is a virus.
 - 15. A cell into which the expression vector as defined by claim 13 has been introduced.
- 16. The cell as defined by claim 15, wherein said cell15 is a prokaryote.
 - 17. The cell as defined by claim 15, wherein said cell is a eukaryote.
 - 18. A process for producing an extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule, comprising the steps of:
- a) ligating the isolated DNA as defined by claim 9 into an expression vector capable of expressing said isolated DNA in a suitable host;
 - b) transforming said host with said expression vector;
- c) culturing said host under conditions suitable for expression of said isolated DNA and production of said extracellular portion; and
 - d) isolating said extracellular portion from said host.

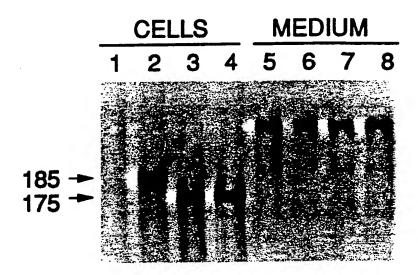
- 19. The process as defined by claim 18, wherein said host cell is a prokaryote.
- 20. The process as defined by claim 19, wherein said prokaryote is a bacterium.
- 5 21. The process as defined by claim 18, wherein said host cell is a eukaryote.
 - 22. A vaccine comprising the extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule as defined by claim 1.
- 23. The vaccine as defined by claim 22, in combination 10 with a suitable adjuvant.
 - 24. A vaccine comprising the extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule as defined by claim 2.
 - 25. The vaccine as defined by claim 24, in combination with a suitable adjuvant.



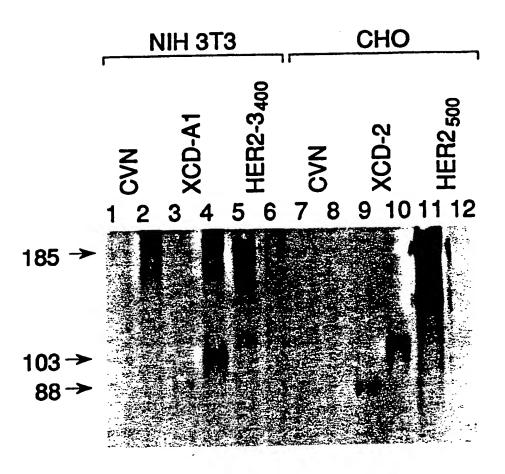


Fig_ 2

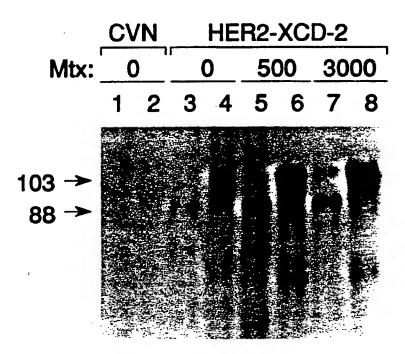




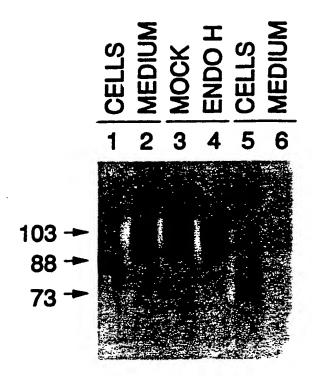
Fig_ 4



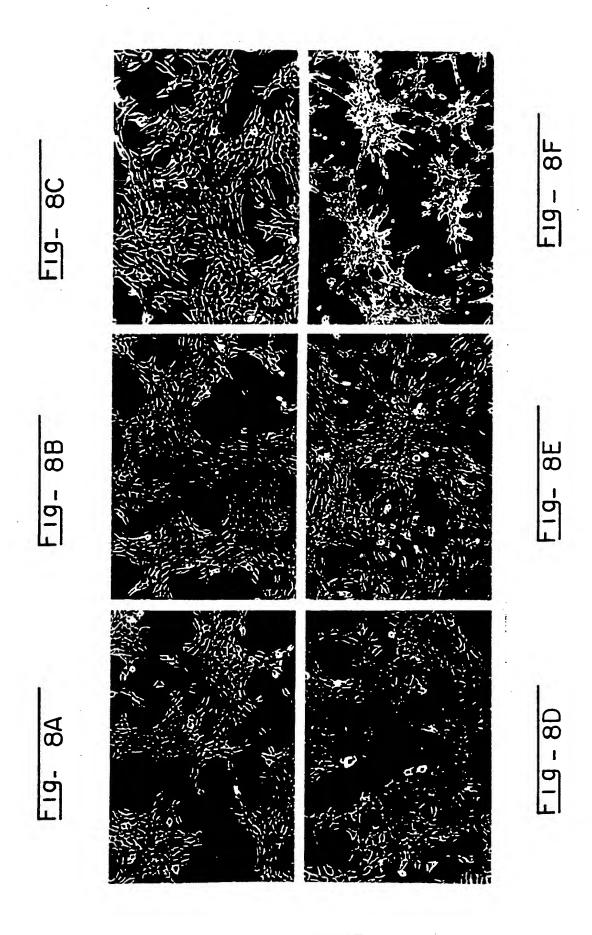
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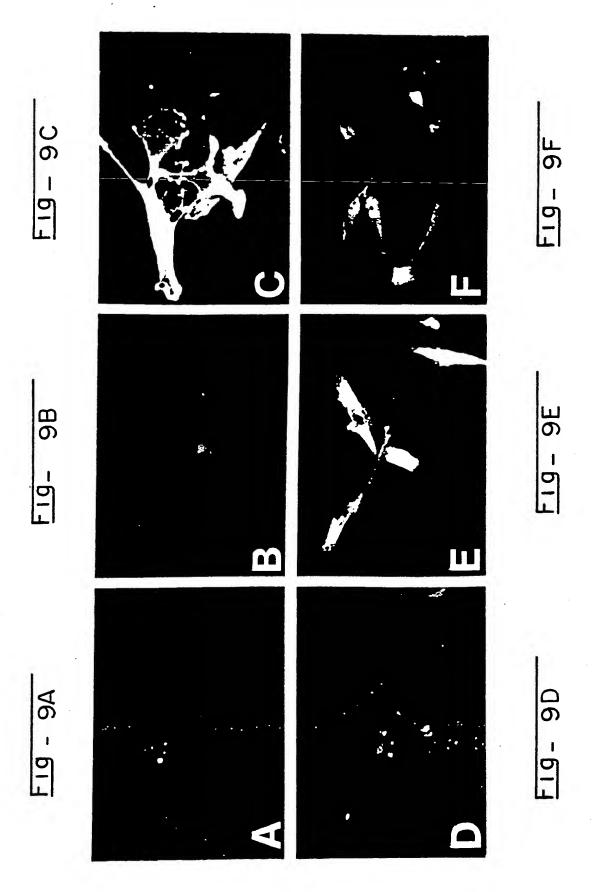
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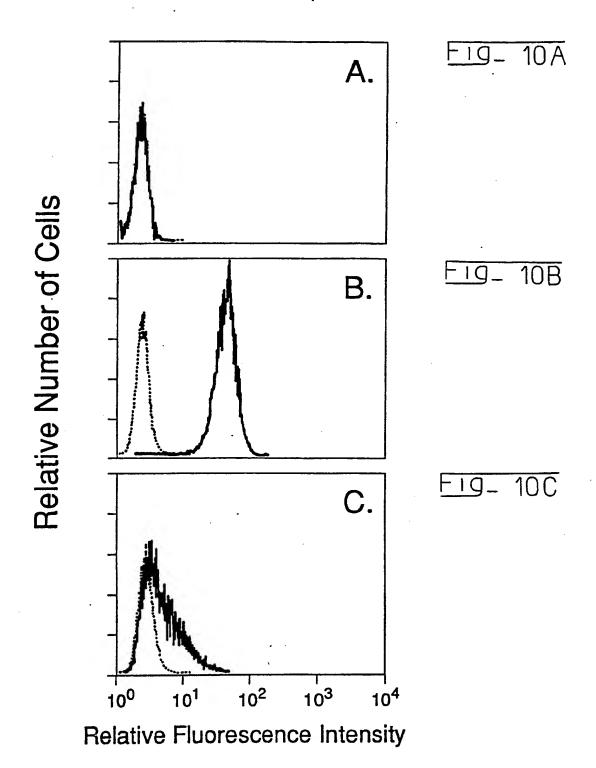
Fig_ 7

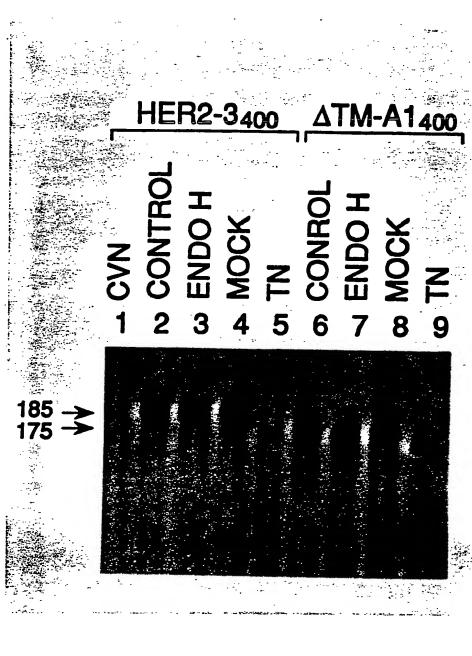


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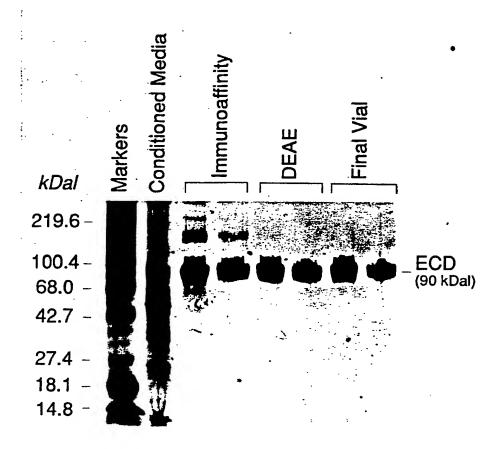




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Purification of the HER2 Extracellular Domain



Fig_ 12

PIGURE 13

20 THR ACC	40 GLU GAA	60 GLN CAG	AUG AUG	100 ASP GAC	120 GLN	140 LEEU CUC	160 LEU CUC
GLU	COG	VAL	ARG CGG	GLY GGA		GLN	ALA
PRO CCC	ASN	GLU	PRO LEU GLA ARG LEU CCA CUG CAG AGG CUG	ASP ASN GAC AAU	PRO GLY GLY LEU ARG GLU LEU CCA GGA GGC CUG CGG GAG CUG	PRO	LEU
SER	GLY	GLN	ARG	ASP	OGG GGG	ASN	GLN
ALA	GLN	ILE	GEN	LEG CGA	COC	ARG	ASN
PRO CCU	VAL	ASP	LEU	ALA VAL GCC GUG	395 395	GLN	ASN
LEU	VAL	GLN	PRO	ALA	GLY GLY	ILE AUC	LYS
ARG	GLN	בתפ חצת	VAL	LEG	PRO CC	LEU	HIS
LEU	CYS	PHE	GLN	ALA	SER	VAL	PHE
LYS	30 GLN GLY CYS CAG GGC UGC	SER	ARG	TYR	ALA	GGG	ILE
10 MET AUG	C GEN	SO LEU CUG	70 VAL GUG	90 ASN AAC	110 GLY GGG	130 GEK GGP	150 ASP GAC
ASP	TYR	SER	GLN	asp	ACA	LYS GLY AAA GGA	LYS
THR	LEU ARG HIS LEU CUC CGC CAC CUC	ALA	ASN	GLU	VAL	THR GLU ILE LEU ACA GAG AUC UUG	TRP
GEC	HIS	ASN	HIS	PHE	PROCE	ILE	LEU
THR	ARG	THR	ALA	LEG	THR	GLU	THR ILE ACG AUU
CYS UGC	COC	PRO	ILE	GLN	THR	THE	THR
VAL	MET	LEU	COC	ACC	ASK	COC	ASP
GLN	ASP	TYR UAC	VAL	750 617	ASN	SER	GLN
THR	20 S	THR	TYR	ARG	LEU	ARG	TYR
SER AGC	HIS	LEU	GEC	VAL	PRO	COL	CYS

	180 GLY GGC	200 ALA GCC	220 ALA GCU	240 SER AGU	260 SER UCC	280 TYR UAC	300 GLU GAG	320 VAL GUG	340 ILE
	LYS	CYS	CYS	HIS	GLU	730 CC CC	GLN	ARG	ASN
	CKS	VAL	GLN	ASN	PHE	CYS	ASN	ALA	
	MET	THIE	GLU	PHE	THR	ALA GCC	HIS	CYS	SER ALA AGU GCC
	PRO 600	ARG	HIS	HIS	ASP	THIR	CUG	PRO	THR
	SER	THR	CYS	CAC	THR	VAL	PRO	LYS	VAL
	CYS	000	CYS UGC 1	CYS	ASN	CYS	CYS	SER	ALA GCA
m i	PRO	SER J	ASP GAC 1	NLA GCC	TYR	SER AGC 1	VAL	CYS	ARG
	HIS 1	GLN SER LEU CAG AGC CUG	THR ACU	כתפ	THR	ALA GCC 1	CAC	LYS	VAL
FIGURE	CYS 1	CYS	PRO CCC 2	CYS 3	VAL	GEV i	ACC	GAG	GAG
FIG	170 ALA GCC	ASP GAU	210 LEU CUG	ASP GAC	250 LEU CUG	270 PHE UUC	290 CYS UGC	310 CYS UGU	ARG CGA
	ARG CGG	GAG	PRO	SER	ALA GCC	ACA	SER	ARG	LEU
	SER	SER	GGG	HIS	PRO	TYR	GCA	GIA	HIS
	ARG	SER	LYS	LYS	CYS	ARG	VAL	THR	GLU
	ASN	GLU GAG	CYS	PRO	HIS	SELY	ASP	GGA	MET
	THR	GLY	ARG CGC 1	GECY	LEU	GLU (ACG	ASP	GGC
	ASP GAC	TRP (ALA GCC	THR	GLU	000	SER	GLU	LEU CUG
	ILE A	CYS T	nen o	CXS	osa ocas	ASN 1	LEG COO 1	ALA GCA	GEY 1
	LEU	ARG CGC 1	GEX 0	GGC G	ILE	020	TYR	ACA	TYR
	THR 1	SER 1	GLX C	ALA G	GLY GGC 7	MET 1	ASN	VAL S	CYS 1
			3 4					. •	-

FIGURE 13

360 PHE UUU	380 GLU	ASP GAC	420 TYR UAC	1.EU	460 PRO CCC	480 GLU GAG	500 TRP VGG	520 VAL GUG
SER	PHB	PRO	ALA	CPA CPA	VAL	PRO CCA	CYS UGC	CAS
GLU	VAL	DE T	GLY	ARG	THR	ARG	HIS	GLU
PRO	GEN	SER	ASN	CIES CIES	HIS	ASN	GGG	GLN
LEU	LEU	ASP	HIS	SER	VAL	ALA	ARG	GELY
PHE	CAG	PRO	במפ הפת	ARG	PHE	THR	ALA	ARG
ALA	GLU	TRP	ILE Auu		CYS	HIS	CYS	COO COO
LEU	PRO CCA	ALA GCA	ARG	GLY LEU GGG CUG	CUC	כמכ	LEU CUG	PHE
SER	GLN	SER	GLY	LEU	HIS	LEU	GLN	GEN
999 877	COC	ILE	ARG	TRP UGG	THR	ALA	HIS	SER
350 PHE UUU	370 PRO CCG	390 TYR UAC	410 ILE AUC	430 SER AGC	450 ASN AAC	470 GLN CAA	490 CYS UGC	510 CYS UGC
ILE	ALA	LEU	VAL	ILE AUC	HIS	HIS	ALA	ASN
LYS	THR	TYR	GLIN	GGC	HIS	PRO	LEU CUG	VAL
LYS	ASN	gen Gen	LEU	LEU	ILE	ASN	299 719	CXS
CYS	SER	THR	ASN	GGG	LEU	ARG	GLU	GLN
SGC GLY	ALA	ILE	GLN	GEN	ALA	PHE	057 719	THR
ALA	PRO	GLU	PHE	COC	רבת	COC	VAL	PRO CCC
PHE	ASP	GEO	VAL	THR	GLY	GLN	CYS	GLY
GLU	GGG GGG	CUG	SER	LEU	SER	ASP	GLU GAG	PRO
GLN	ASP	THR	EEG CGC CGC CGC CGC CGC CGC CGC CGC CGC	SER	GELY	TRP	ASP	ark Gen

			C ()	0 ~ ()	0 54 0	
	540 LEU UUG	560 ALA GCU	580 PRO CCC	295 200 200	GEV GGC	
	CYS	GLU	CYS	GLU	LYS	
	HIS	PRO	ARG	CLU CAG	ASP	
	ARG	GLY	ALA	ASP	ASP	
	ALA GCC	PHE	VAL	98 60 80	LEU	
	ASN	CYS	CYS	PHE	ASP	
	VAL	THIR	PHE	LYS	VAL	
	TYR	VAL	PRO	TRP UGG	CYS	
RE 13	GLU GAG	SER	PRO	ILE	SER	
FIGURE	ARG	GEY GGC	ASP	PRO CCC	HIS	
	530 PRO CCC	550 ASN AAU	570 LYS AAG	590 Met Aug	610 THR ACC	
	LEU	GLN	TYR	TYR	CYS	
	GCC	PRO	HIS	SER	ASK	
	GLN	GLN	ALA	LRU	ILE	
	VAL LEU GLN GLY GUA CUG CAG GGG	CYS	CYS	ASP	PR0 CCC	
	VAL	GLU	ALA	PRO	CYS	
	ARG	PRO	VAL	LYS	PRO	624 GLU GAG
	CYS	HIS	CYS	VAL	GLN	ALA
	GLU CYS ARG GAA UGC CGA	CYS	GLN	CEU GEV	CYS	PRO CCC
	GLU	PRO CCG	ASP	SER	ALA	CYS

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/US90/02697

1027 08307 02037							
I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classi							
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both Nati							
IPC(5): C07K 7/06, 7/08, 13/00, 17/							
C12P 21/02; A61K 39/00, 39/385, 39/3							
II. FIELDS SEARCHED 435/320, 172, 69.1, 69		L2, 22-32, 66 - 75					
Minimum Documer	ntation Searched 4 424/88						
Classification System	Classification Symbols						
570/704 300 350 403 00	0 425 /200 450 0 40						
530/324-328, 350, 403, 828; 435/320, 172.3, 69.1, 69.3, U.S.Cl. 252.3, 240.2; 935/12, 22-32, 66-75; 424/88							
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched 5							
Biosis, World Patents Index, USPTO Au 1975-1990). See attachment for search		(File US PAT,					
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT 14							
Category • Citation of Document, 16 with indication, where app	ropriate, of the relevant passages 17	Relevant to Claim No. 14					
X Nature (London, UK), Volume 319	Number 605122	1 2 5 6 0 12					
		1,2,5,6,9-12					
		3,4,7,8,13-25					
of Protein Encoded by the Human							
Epiderimal Growth Factor Recept							
See Figures 1-3 and final parag	raph.	:					
Y US, A, 4,761,371 (BELL ET AL) See the entire document.	02 August 1988.	7,8,13-21					
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Issued 1987, Yarden et al, "Epi Induces Rapid Reversible Aggreg Epidermal Growth Factor Recepto	Biochemistry (Washington, US), Volume 26, number 5, Issued 1987, Yarden et al, "Epidermal Growth Factor Induces Rapid Reversible Aggregation of the Purified Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor", pages 1443-1451. See materials and methods section.						
Special categories of cited documents: 15	"T" later document published after to	he international filing date					
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not	or priority date and not in confli	ct with the application but					
considered to be of particular relevance invention							
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invercannot be considered novel or cannot be considered.							
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or involve an inventive step							
which is cited to establish the publication data of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevant cannot be considered to involve	ce; the claimed invention in					
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other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.							
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "4" document member of the same patent family							
IV. CERTIFICATION							
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search ²	Date of Mailing of this International Se	arch Report *					
12 JULY 1990 2 6 SEP 1990							
International Searching Authority L	Signature of Authorized Ficer 20/19/10/10 Magueyec						
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PCT/US90/02697 III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)						
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A	Annual Review of Biochemistry (Palo Alto, US), Volume 57, Issued 1988, Yarden et al, "Growth Factor Receptor Kinases", pages 443-78.	1-25				
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ATTACHMENT TO PCT/US90/02697

SEARCH TERMS

her2, her 2, Ng1, oncogen?, receptor, erb#, erb b, vaccine, pure, purif?, epidermal growth factor, egf, extra cell?, eternal, ligand, domain, domains, sequence, C erb B 2, erbb2